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A  
DECLARATION  
OF THE  
PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
HONOURABLE COMMITTEE  
Of the House of  
COMMONS,

AT  
*Merchant-Taylors Hall,*  
For Raising the People of the Land  
as one MAN.

Under the command of  
*Sir William Waller.*

August 3. 1643.

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*Ordered by the Committee to be printed.*

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LONDON,  
Printed by T. Pain and M. Simons.

1643.

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**A DECLARATION OF**  
**the Honorable Committee of the House**  
**of Commons at Merchant-Taylors Hall,**  
**August 3d. 1643.**



Thousands of judicious well minded men being thoroughly sensible of the miserable condition of the Common-wealth, seeing their most faithfull Friends Commanders, and Souldiers destroyed in small parties against strong and treacherous Enemies; and finding by long and sad experience, that all endeavours of Parliament whether by gentle or forcible meanes, availed not to prevent or subdue their implacable malice, but as they increased in numbers, so they continued to spoile and murther honest religious people in all places where they came. And being thoroughly sensible of the distressed estate of our brethren in Ireland, and the wants and necessities of the poore through decay of Trade, and want of Fuel, and foreseeing that famine and destruction, were even seizing upon the



whole Nation, if not speedily, and by extraordinarie meanes prevented, did propose unto themselves the generall raising of the whole people (as one Man) as the onely meanes to give a speedie end to this destructive warre. To effect which, they presented a Petition to the Commons of ENGLAND in *Parliament* assembled the 20<sup>th</sup>. day of July 1643. wherein they manifested, that they rightly understood the condition of their Enemies, and were not whit blinded by their delusions: and in most earnest, and humble manner desired, that that Honorable House would be pleased to appoint a Committee to manage that great affyre of Raising the whole people. The Petition was received with great expressions of affection; and a Committee of worthie Members of the House appointed for advance of that Service.

This Honorable Committee with great resolution and confidence undertooke this burthenfome and great employment, as conceiving the same to be the last refuge of the people: in pursuance whereof they proceeded with great caution, to lay a sound Foundation and good method: which being agreed upon both for the City of London, and all other Countie; they then summoned all sorts of well-affectd persons of London, Westminster, Southwark, and parts adjacent, to appeare at Merchant-Taylers Hall on Thursday the 27<sup>th</sup>. of July, there to subscribe for Moneys, Ammunition, Armes, Horse, &c. and to list their persons.

The people appeared in great numbers, the Right Honorable the Lord Mayor, and many worthie Aldermen and Gentlemen were there to countenance the Work, which went on with great alacritie and cheerfulness; Amidst these

these proceedings, the people were very desirous that Sir *William Waller* might be appointed Commander in Chief. The peoples desire therein was presented to the Committee by Mr. *Sheriffe Langham*, which was immediately taken into debate, and upon mature deliberation agreed upon to be presented to the Honorable House of Commons for approbation, which succeeded according to the peoples earnest desire and expectation. Sir *Will. Waller*, upon motion of the Committee, being voted Commander in Chief of the Forces to be Raised by this Committee, and was also made a Member of this Committee: all which was effected in few houres; and the Order of the House sent unto the people to cheare their hearts, and gratifie their willingnesse to preserve the Kingdome; The Committee in short time returned to the Hill, and after them Sir *William Waller*, and sat with the Committee; and after some discourse, they all with him went out unto the people; where he entertained their loves with a brief, but most pertinent Speech, which they requited with loud acclamations of joy and thankfulness, so as they seemed to be mutually engaged one unto the other, with the greatest solemnitie that affection could expresse, to the great contentment and joy of all good men; especially the Committee, who returned to their consultations full of confidence, that nothing would be too difficult to a Commander, and a people so united.

They found by that dayes proceedings, that it would be most convenient that subscriptions should be taken, and men listed, by chosen men, and none escape from being demanded to subscribe according to ability: Or if any  
should

should, that their answers might be knowne, being determined to proceed in the same method in all Counties. There came unto them divers Citizens, manifesting desires to further the work of the generall raising of the people, as the onely means to preserve the Kingdome; but differed in their opinions from the judgement of the Committee, about the method intended for the advance of Men and Monies, utterly disliking all endeavours for voluntary subscriptions and listings, and earnestly pressing, that without a compulsive power, by which all men should be compelled to goe in person, or to contribute Monies, the work would be retarded, and nothing done; and desired that my Lord Maior might be moved to call a Common-Hall for the furthering of the worke. The Committee remained firm in their judgements, that the voluntary way was first to be proved, as not doubting, but that the people being now sensible of their approaching miseries, and upon the generall raising for a speedy end of all their feares and troubles, they would not be backward, but liberally disburse their monies, and adventure their persons; which if contrary to their expectations should prove defective, would soone appeare, and did not doubt, but in such a case to be supplied by a coercive power from the House.

Nevertheless they agreed that my Lord Maior should be desired to call a Common-Hall, where the promoting of the work of this Committee should be commended to the generality of the Citizens; which was done accordingly by Colonell *Martin*, and exceeding joyfully approved of, to the great encouragement of the Committee



Committee to proceed in their endeavours and intentions, and thereupon have issued forth their Warrants, and particular instructions to the Alderman and his Deputy of every Ward, to call unto them the Ministers, the Common-Councill men, and other fit persons to promote the said work, according to the method and instructions sent unto them.

The like course is taken in Westminster, Southwarke, and the places adjacent, whereof it is most necessary, that every good man should take notice, lay to heart, and endeavour to promote the same, as the greatnesse and necessity of the worke doth require; there having been no other way proposed by them for lifting of men, or taking subscriptions. And therefore what ever other good workes or designs are on foot, let none be wanting unto this, the greatest of all, and last refuge of the people. Care will be taken that your Monies shall be faithfully and frugally disbursed, and that no bad Officer be admitted, and the common Souldier carefully provided for: And experience will prove, that this is no vain bait or allurements; may the people be but as faithfull to themselves, as these Gentlemen will be unto them, and as liberall to the work as they are ready to spend themselves in behalfe of the plainest and poorest people in the Common-wealth. And then our enemies will soon feel the smart, and our friends the comfort of their endeavours. Therefore let no man stand to see what others will do; let no mans evill suggestions upon faire pretences prevaile: who ever endeavours to disturb or divert this work by never so faire a shew, will be found no friend to the Common-

mon. wealth: What you do, do with all your might: the  
work is Gods, to deliver the captive, and set the oppressed  
free. Let none therefore incur that curse, which is due  
unto those that doe the work of the Lord negligently; nor  
that bitter curse that will suddenly fall upon those that  
come not forth to help the Lord against the mighty.

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